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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken to gather a body of comprehensive data concerning the trustees serving the 19 Kansas community college districts that are governed by local boards. A 22-item questionnaire elicited information on characteristics such as sex, age, ethnic origin, occupation, educational level, years of service as a board member, length of residence, income, and ownership of property; and on selected background characteristics, such as place of birth, population of place of birth, marital status and family size, religious affiliation, community college attendance, father's occupation, and educational attainment of parents. The survey instrument was mailed to 114 trustees and returned by 81. The survey showed that members of community college boards of trustees were men and women in their early 50's, well-educated, economically successful, and who had been long-time residents of the state and their district. Additionally, they were owners of real property in the college district and contributed to the financial support of the institutions they governed. The typical trustee had limited experience, with 60% serving for seven years or less as a trustee. A large proportion of the respondents came from a rural background and from families with a rather high educational achievement level. The survey instrument and responses to each item are presented as numbers and percentages. (Author/AYC)

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DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM
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DECADE ONE + FOUR: PROFILE OF THE KANSAS TRUSTEE

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I. INTRODUCTION

The state of Kansas has a long and distinguished history in the development of the community junior college movement. Kansas in 1917 passed an enabling act for the establishment of junior colleges. This law, although permissive in nature, did provide for the establishment of grades 13 and 14. In addition, legislation was passed in 1933, 1957, 1961, and 1963 -- all concerned with the establishment of junior college education as a part of high school extension.

In 1965 Kansas undertook the most significant action to date concerning its community college organization. That year community college districts became a reality with the passage of House Bill 893. House Bill 893, known as the "Community Junior College Act", not only established a system of public community college districts but also provided for a local governing board of six trustee members. These boards of trustees were to be composed of lay persons elected from the college districts.

Kansas now has nineteen public community college districts. These community college districts are being governed by 114 locally elected trustee members who are providing leadership for institutions of higher education enrolling over 33,000 students, with approximately 1200 staff members and combined budgets exceeding thirty-five million dollars.

II. PURPOSE AND PROCEDURES

This study was undertaken with one primary purpose in mind: to gather a body of comprehensive data concerning selected personal characteristics and backgrounds of trustees currently serving the Kansas community college districts.

A survey instrument was developed containing twenty-two items, requiring about thirty-six responses from each trustee. This survey instrument was designed to elicit information concerning: (a) such characteristics as sex, age, ethnic origin, occupation, educational level, years of service as a board member, length of residence, income, and ownership of property, and (b) selected background information -- information such as place of birth, population of place of birth, marital status and family size, religious affiliations, community college attendance, fathers occupation, and educational attainment of parents. This survey instrument was mailed to each of the 114 trustees serving Kansas community colleges. The response from trustees in completing and returning the survey instrument was good. Of the 114 survey instruments distributed, 81 usable ones (71 percent) were returned.

The primary statistics reported was the total number and percentages of trustee members in each category of response. The percentages in all cases were based upon the number of responses for each question. All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number and were calculated so that distributions reported in the tables and summaries will always add to 100. While there were eighty-one trustee members repre-

sented, not every item in each inquiry was answered; thus, the total number of recorded responses varies from item to item.

III. RESPONSES AND RESULTS

As indicated in Part II, survey instruments were mailed to each of the 114 trustees serving Kansas community colleges. Responses were received from 81 (71 percent) of the trustees. Only certain selected highlights from the survey of trustee characteristics are presented and interpreted here.

(A) CHARACTERISTICS

Distribution by sex, age, ethnic origin: Previous studies have rather consistently shown that men tend to outnumber women as members of community college governing boards. Kansas was continuing this practice as more than 85 percent of the respondents to this study were men, and less than 15 percent were women.

Kansas community college trustees were very similar in age to trustee members surveyed in other studies. Drake indicates that 86 percent of the public community college trustees responding to her study were forty years of age or older. In a study of ACCT members, Grafe found that 43.5 percent were between the ages of fifty and sixty-five years of age, and 8 percent were sixty-five or older. Hartnett shows that more than 80 percent of the community junior college trustees responding to his study were forty years of age or older.

It will be noted in Table I that more than 55 percent of Kansas trustees were over fifty years of age, with 14 percent less than forty-

one years of age, and only 7 percent in the age range of sixty-one to sixty-five. The median age of all trustees was fifty-two. Table I also shows that all the respondents to the inquiry concerning ethnic origin were white.

TABLE I

SEX, AGE, RACE DISTRIBUTION

	NUMBER	PERCENT
SEX		
Male	70	86
Female	11	14
TOTALS	81	100
RACE		
White	74	100
AGE		
21-25	1	1
26-30	1	1
31-35	5	6
36-40	5	6
41-45	8	10
46-50	15	20
51-55	21	26
56-60	13	16
61-65	6	7
Over 65	5	6
TOTALS	80	100

Educational attainment: College graduates, at the baccalaureate degree or higher, held 73 percent of the trustee positions in Kansas. Advanced degrees were held by 30 percent of the respondents to this study, with 13 percent holding masters' degrees and 17 percent having a professional degree at the doctorate level. It is interesting to note that 12 percent of the trustees have earned a junior college degree.

Table II shows the number and percentage of trustee members at each of the levels of formal education.

TABLE II

FORMAL EDUCATION

HIGHEST LEVEL	NUMBER	PERCENT
Doctorate (Ph.D., Ed. D.)	4	5
Professional (M.D., L.L.B.)	9	12
Masters (MA/MS)	10	13
Baccalaureate (BA/BS)	34	43
Associate (AA/AS)	9	12
Some College (Did not obtain degree)	7	9
High School Diploma	5	6
TOTALS	78	100

Occupational classification: Information concerning occupational classification was obtained from 81 trustee members. Three occupational classifications accounted for 61 percent of these members: professional (e.g. medicine, law, etc.) with 26 percent managerial, (banking - investment - insurance) with another 20 percent, agricultural (farmers, ranchers, etc.)

with 15 percent. Those engaged in merchandising (e.g. owner, partners, executive) ranked a distant fourth, accounting for only 8 percent of the total membership. Results are shown in Table III.

TABLE III

OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

PRIMARY OCCUPATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Professional (e.g. Medicine, law, etc.)	21	26
Education (Teacher, Administrator)	6	8
Manufacturing (Owner, Partner, Executive)	6	8
Merchandising (Owner, Partner, Executive)	6	8
Banking, Investment, Insurance	17	20
Government (Local, State, Federal)	1	1
Agricultural (Farmer, Rancher, etc.)	12	15
Housewife	5	6
Sales and Clerical	4	5
Retired	3	3
TOTALS	81	100

Income range: Kansas community college trustees tend to come from occupational groups, as reported in Table III, where annual incomes in general are higher than for other occupational classifications. Therefore, it could be assumed that the annual income of trustee members might be slightly higher than for the general population as a whole. This assumption was supported by response to the item in the survey instrument concerned with income. Sixty-three (81 percent) of the trustees reported

receiving an annual income of more than $20,100. Another 13 percent report annual incomes in the range of $55,100 to over $100,000. The median income of trustees responding to this item was $27,310.00. Table IV shows the income distribution of trustee members.

TABLE IV

INCOME RANGE

RANGE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Under $10,000	2	2
10,100 - 15,000	3	4
15,100 - 20,000	10	13
20,100 - 25,000	18	23
25,100 - 30,000	13	17
30,100 - 35,000	6	8
35,100 - 40,000	8	10
40,100 - 45,000	2	2
45,100 - 50,000	3	4
50,100 - 55,000	3	4
55,100 - 60,000	1	1
60,100 - 75,000	3	4
75,100 - 90,000	3	4
Over 100,000	3	4
TOTALS	78	100

Experience as school board/trustee member: Information on years of service was secured in two categories: (a) years of service as a member of a school board (K-12), and (b) years of service as a community college trustee.

An analysis of the data reported in Table V would tend to support the concept that Kansas community junior college trustees have limited experience as board members. Of trustees responding to this item, sixty-one (79 percent) have served as community college boards only. Forty-eight (62 percent) had seven years or less of service as a trustee member, and only 7 respondents (9 percent) have served for twelve or more years. The median years of service as a community college trustee was slightly less than five and one - half years.

TABLE V

EXPERIENCE AS SCHOOL BOARD/TRUSTEE MEMBER

Area of Service		NUMBER	PERCENT
Previous Member K-12 Board	Yes	16	21
	No	61	79
TOTALS		77	100
	Years		
Number Years Service K-12 Board	2-3	5	32
	4-7	4	25
	3-12	1	6
	12 or more	6	37
TOTALS		16	100
	Years		
Years Experience as Community College Trustee	1	10	13
	2-3	20	26
	4-7	18	23
	8-11	22	29
	12 or more	7	9
TOTALS		77	100

Residence and ownership of property: Very few trustee members are ever elected to community college boards without a history of long residence in the state and community college district. Table VI shows the distribution of the number and percent of trustee members, and the number of years they have been a resident of the state and the community college district.

Fifty-eight (76 percent) of the trustee members have been residents of the state their entire life, while thirty-five (50 percent) have been continuous residents of the community college district.

A further analysis of Table VI will show that 99 percent of all trustees have been Kansas residents for ten or more years, and 99 percent have lived in their college district ten or more years.

Kansas community junior college districts have very few trustee members that do not own real property and help pay the taxes which supports the program of the community college. Seventy-four respondents answered this inquiry, and seventy-three (99 plus percent) indicated ownership of real property in the community college districts. Results are shown in Table VII.

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF YEARS AS RESIDENT

YEARS OF RESIDENCE	STATE		COLLEGE DISTRICT	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Life - Long	58	76	35	50
Over 10 years	18	23	30	43
5 - 10 years	0	0	4	6
2 - 5 years	1	1	1	1
Less than 2 years	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	77	100	70	100

TABLE VII

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY IN COLLEGE DISTRICT

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY IN DISTRICT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	73	99
No	1	1
TOTALS	74	100

(B) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Environmental factors are assumed to have some influence on trustee membership. Although no effort was undertaken in this study to determine the influence of environment factors, information concerning selected environmental backgrounds was collected. Following is a summary of that data (also, see appendix):

Place of birth and population where born: Kansas community junior college trustees are relatively "place bound." Fifty-five (77 percent) were born in Kansas. The remaining 23 percent were born in either Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa, Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, California, or Connecticut.

Not only are they "place bound" but most (84 percent) have a rural (less than 3,000 population, or small town 13,000 to 15,000 population) background.

Marital status and family size: The typical Kansas trustee member is married and probably has been for a number of years. Furthermore, the great majority have one or more children.

These are the facts: 99 percent of all trustees are married or have been at least once. Also, 95 percent have one or more children.

Religious affiliations: Information concerning religious affiliation was obtained from 74 members. Sixty-eight (93 percent) reported belonging to one of the major Protestant religious groups. Another four percent report membership in Catholic organizations.

Community college attendance: Twenty-eight (35 percent) of the trustee members have attended a community junior college. Nine trustee members reported their highest educational attainment as the earning of a community college degree (Table II). However, seventeen (21 percent) indicated they have received a community college degree. This seeming contradiction was caused by the nature of the inquiry. Respondents were asked to indicate their highest educational attainment and also if they had earned a community college degree. It can be assumed that a higher degree was earned by the additional respondents.

Father's occupation and educational attainment of parents: Two occupational categories accounted for 57 percent of the fathers' occupations: agricultural (farmer, rancher, etc.) with 36 percent, and merchandising with 21 percent.

Many of the trustees came from homes in which parents had achieved a successful level of educational attainment. More than 60 percent of the trustees were from homes in which parents had at least completed high school, or a higher level of educational achievement (Mothers' 66 percent - Fathers' 60 percent).

IV SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Nineteen public community junior college districts in Kansas are being governed by local boards of trustees. The role of these trustees in providing local leadership in higher education is dynamic and important. In comparison with the importance of the trustee position, relatively little is known about the individuals serving in these positions. Therefore, this study was undertaken to provide selected information concerning the (a) characteristics, and (b) backgrounds of trustees.

The finding in this survey shows that Kansas citizens are electing to membership on community college boards of trustees men and women who are in their early fifties, well educated, economically successful, and who have been long-time residents of the state and their community college district.

What is more, these trustee members are not only long-time state and district residents, but they are owners of real property in the college district and are contributing significantly to the financial support of the institutions they govern.

The typical community college trustee has limited experience as a trustee member, more than 60 percent have served for a period of seven years or less. The median number of years served as a trustee member was five and one-half years. Not only has he limited experience as a college trustee, but he has no, or limited, experience as a public school board member (K-12).

A large proportion of these trustees come from a rural background, less than 8 percent were born in cities of over 100,000 population. A majority have farming or merchandising background, as these were the major occupations of 57 percent of the fathers. It will also be noted that most came from

families with rather a successful achievement level in education (more than 60 percent of the parents had earned at least a high school diploma).

In summary, the typical Kansas community junior college trustee is a white male in his early 50's, married, with two children. He is well-educated (seventy-three percent have the baccalaureate degree or higher). He is financially successful (he has a median income of $27,310.00). He is engaged in one of four occupational classifications: professional (26 percent), managerial (21 percent), agricultural (15 percent) and merchandising (8 percent). He has limited experience as a trustee member. He is a native of Kansas.

This study, limited to the collection of data on selected characteristics and background information of community college trustees, does not relate to questions concerning these characteristics and the effectiveness of the trustee members. However, this study does suggest that local citizens in community college districts recognize the need for informed, effective policy-makers and are placing individuals in these trustee positions who have the qualifications which enable them to so perform.

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VI APPENDIX

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF KANSAS
PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

DIRECTIONS: Please circle the letter or number following the appropriate response to each question as it applies to you. In addition, please supply information where blanks are provided and specific information is requested.

---

1. Sex

Male	M
Female	F

2. Age at last birthday

21-25	A	46-50	F
26-30	B	51-55	G
31-35	C	56-60	H
36-40	D	61-65	I
41-45	E	over 65	J

3. Ethnic Origin

White	W
Black	B
Oriental	O
Chicano	C
American Indian	A
Other (_____)	Ot

4. Marital Status

Married	M
Single	S
Widowed	W
Divorced	D

5. Number of Children

0	A
1-3	B
4 and over	C

6. Place of Birth
City _____
State _____

7. Population of place of birth

Rural (less than 3,000)	A
Town (3,000-15,000)	B
City (15,000-100,000)	C
City (over 100,000)	D

8. Family size

A. Brothers	0	A
	1-3	B
	4 and over	C
B. Sisters	0	A
	1-3	B
	4 and over	C

9. You have been a Kansas Resident (circle highest)

Life-Long	A
Over 10 years	B
5 - 10 years	C
2 - 5 years	D
less than 2 years	E

10. Your religious affiliation

Protestant	P
Catholic	C
Jewish	J
Other (_____)	O
None	N

11. Please indicate amount of formal education attained (circle only one. Highest you have attained)

Under 8 years	A
Under 12 years	B
High School Diploma	C
Some college (did not obtain a degree)	D
Associate Degree AA/AS	E
Baccalaureate BA/BS	F
Masters MA/MS	G
Professional (e.g. M.D., L.L.B.)	H
Doctorate (e.g. Ph.D., Ed.D.)	I

12. Have you ever attended a community college?

Yes	Y
No	N

13. Did you obtain a degree from a two-year college?

Yes	Y
No	N

14. How long have you been a resident of your community college district?

Life-Time	A
Over 10 years	B
5 - 10 years	C
2 - 5 years	D
Less than 2 years	E

15. Do you own property in your community college district?

Yes	Y
No	N

16. How many years have you served as a trustee (community college only)

One	A
Two, but less than four	B
Four, but less than eight	C
Eight, but less than twelve	D
Twelve or more	E

17. Have you previously served on a Board of Education (K-12 system)

Yes	Y
No	N

If yes, how many years?

One	A
Two, but less than four	B
Four, but less than eight	C
Eight, but less than twelve	D
Twelve or more	E

18. Please identify your primary occupation. (circle the one that seems to best describe your position. If retired, indicate former primary occupation.)

Professional (e.g. Medicine, Law, etc.)	A
Education (teacher, administrator)	B
Manufacturing (owner, partner, executive)	C
Merchandising (owner, partner, executive)	D
Banking, Investment, Insurance	E
Government (local, state, federal)	F
Agricultural (farmer, rancher, etc.)	G
Labor Union Official	H
Housewife	I
Skilled Occupation (plumbing, electrical, etc.)	J
Unskilled Labor	K
Service Labor	L
Sales and Clerical	M
Retired (_____)	N
Other (_____)	O

19. Please estimate your total annual income. Income from all sources before taxes.

Under $10,000	A
10,100 - 15,000	B
15,100 - 20,000	C
20,100 - 25,000	D
25,100 - 30,000	E
30,100 - 35,000	F
35,100 - 40,000	G
40,100 - 45,000	H
45,100 - 50,000	I
50,100 - 55,000	J
55,100 - 60,000	K
60,100 - 75,000	L
75,100 - 90,000	M
100,000 - or more	N

20. Please indicate the number of children you currently have attending school (number in each level)

Elementary	_____
Junior High	_____
Senior High	_____
Community College	_____
Senior College	_____
Graduate School	_____

21. Please identify the formal Educational attainment of your mother (M) and your father (F). (Circle highest for each).

Less than elementary	M	F
Elementary (through 8 yrs.)	M	F
Some high school	M	F
High School graduate	M	F
Some college	M	F
Community college graduate	M	F
Senior College graduate	M	F
Graduate Study	M	F

22. Identify your father's primary occupation. (Circle the one that seems to best describe his occupation. If retired or deceased, please identify former occupation).

Professional (e.g. Medicine, Law, etc.)	A
Education (teacher, administrator)	B
Manufacturing (owner, partner, executive)	C
Merchandising (owner, partner, executive)	D
Banking, Investment, Insurance	E
Government (local, state, federal)	F
Agricultural (Farmer, rancher, etc.)	G
Labor Union Official	H
Skilled occupation (plumbing, electrical, etc.)	I
Unskilled Labor	J
Service Worker	K
Sales and Clerical	L
Other (_____)	M

TABLE VIII

PLACE OF BIRTH AND POPULATION

PLACE OF BIRTH (STATE)	NUMBER	PERCENT	POPULATION CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Kansas	55	77	Rural (less than 3,000)	41	60
Others*			Town (3,000-15,000)	17	24
			City (15,000-100,000)	6	8
			City (over 100,000)	6	8
TOTALS	72	100		70	100

*Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, California, Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Texas.

TABLE IX

MARITAL STATUS AND FAMILY SIZE

MARITAL STATUS	NUMBER	PERCENT
Married	67	94
Single	1	1
Widowed	3	4
Divorced	1	1
TOTALS	72	100

NUMBER OF CHILDREN	NUMBER	PERCENT
0	4	5
1-3	53	72
4 and over	16	23
TOTALS	73	100

TABLE X

FAMILY SIZE (BROTHERS-SISTERS)

NUMBER OF BROTHERS	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER OF SISTERS	NUMBER	PERCENT
0	5	8	0	6	9
1-3	56	84	1-3	56	84
4 and over	5	8	4 and over	4	7
TOTALS	66	100		66	100

TABLE XI

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

AFFILIATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Protestant	68	93
Catholic	3	4
Jewish	1	1
Other	1	1
None	1	1
TOTALS	74	100

TABLE XII

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

ATTENDED COMMUNITY COLLEGE	NUMBER	PERCENT	EARNED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEGREE	NUMBER	PERCENT
Yes	28	40	Yes	17	23
No	43	60	No	54	77
TOTALS	71	100		71	100

TABLE XIII

FATHER'S OCCUPATION

PRIMARY OCCUPATION	NUMBER	PERCENT
Professional (e.g. Medicine, Law, etc.)	5	8
Education (Teacher, Administrator)	0	0
Manufacturing (Owner, Partner, Executive)	3	5
Merchandising (Owner, Partner, Executive)	14	21
Banking, Investment, Insurance	2	3
Government (Local, State, Federal)	2	3
Agricultural (Farmer, Rancher, etc.)	23	36
Labor Union Official	1	1
Skilled Occupation (Plumbing, Electrical, etc.)	6	9
Unskilled Labor	0	0
Service Worker	0	0
Sales and Clerical	4	6
Other	5	8
TOTALS	65	100

TABLE XIV

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PARENTS

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	MOTHER		FATHER	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Graduate Study	3	4	4	6
Senior College Graduate	6	8	9	13
Community College Graduate	3	4	1	1
Some College	16	22	17	24
High School Graduate	19	28	11	16
Some High School	15	20	14	20
Elementary (Through 8 years)	10	14	11	16
Less Than Elementary	0	0	3	4
TOTALS	72	100	70	100

KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

DISTRICT	CITY
ALLEN COUNTY	IOLA
BARTON COUNTY	GREAT BEND
BUTLER COUNTY	EL DORADO
CLOUD COUNTY	CONCORDIA
COFFEYVILLE	COFFEYVILLE
COLBY	COLBY
COWLEY COUNTY	ARKANSAS CITY
DODGE CITY	DODGE CITY
FORT SCOTT	FORT SCOTT
GARDEN CITY	GARDEN CITY
HIGHLAND	HIGHLAND
HUTCHINSON	HUTCHINSON
INDEPENDENCE	INDEPENDENCE
JOHNSON COUNTY	SHAWNEE MISSION
KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY
LABETTE COUNTY	PARSONS
NEOSHO COUNTY	CHANUTE
PRATT	PRATT
SEWARD COUNTY	LIBERAL

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